UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/52/L.45*
10 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 71 (o)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Canada and Poland: draft resolution

Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, in particular resolution 51/45 T of 10 December 1996, adopted without a vote,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

1. Welcomes the fact that the Convention entered into force on 29 April 1997 with 87 original States Parties as well as the fact that 17 States have subsequently become States Parties to the Convention;

2. Notes with satisfaction that the First Conference of States Parties held at The Hague in the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 6-23 May 1997 successfully launched the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with Ambassador Jose M. Bustani of Brazil as the first Director-General;

3. Emphasizes the necessity of universal adherence to the Convention, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become States Parties to the Convention without delay;

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

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4. Stresses the vital importance of full and effective implementation of, and compliance with, all provisions of the Convention;

5. Notes with satisfaction that the OPCW has quickly initiated verification activities, including the processing of declarations of States Parties and the conducting of inspections of chemical weapons-related and other declared facilities as required by the Convention, and underlines the importance of the early initiation of activities under all relevant provisions of the Convention by the OPCW;

6. Also stresses the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States Parties to the Convention, and welcomes recent progress to that end;

7. Urges all States Parties to the Convention to meet in full their obligations under the Convention and to support the OPCW in its implementation activities;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".